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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A method of cryopreserving cells, comprising bringing the cells into contact with a cryopreservation composition containing at least one cyclohexanediol compound, and subsequently reducing the temperature of the cells to a cryopreservation temperature.
- 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one cyclohexanediol compound is selected from the group consisting of the cis or trans forms of 1,3-cyclohexanediol and 1,4-cyclohexanediol, and racemic mixtures thereof.
- 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the cyclohexanediol compound is present in the cryopreservation composition in an amount of from 0.05 to 2.0 M.
- 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the cryopreservation composition further contains at least one additional cryoprotectant compound.
- 5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the at least one additional cryoprotectant compound is selected from the group consisting of including acetamide, agarose, alginate, l-analine, albumin, ammonium acetate, butanediol, chondroitin sulfate, chloroform, choline, dextrans, diethylene glycol, dimethyl acetamide, dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), erythritol, ethanol, ethylene glycol, formamide, glucose, glycerol, α-glycerophosphate, glycerol monoacetate, glycine, hydroxyethyl starch, inositol, lactose, magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate, maltose, mannitol, mannose, methanol, methyl acetamide, methylformamide, methyl ureas, phenol, pluronic polyols, polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, proline, propylene glycol, pyridine N-oxide, ribose, serine, sodium bromide, sodium chloride, sodium iodide, sodium nitrate, sodium sulfate, sorbitol, sucrose, trehalose, triethylene glycol, trimethylamine acetate, urea, valine and xylose.
- 6. A method according to claim 4, wherein the at least one additional cryoprotectant compound is present in the cryopreservation composition in an amount of from 0.1 to 10.0 M.
- 7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the cryopreservation composition further contains at least one anti-freeze protein.

- 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the anti-freeze protein is present in the cryopreservation composition in an amount of from 0.01 to 1 mg/mL of the cryopreservation composition.
- 9. A method according to claim 4, wherein the cryopreservation composition further contains at least one anti-freeze protein.
- 10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the cryopreservation temperature is -20°C or less.
- 11. A cryopreservation composition comprising at least one cyclohexanediol compound and at least one additional cryoprotectant compound.
- 12. A cryopreservation composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one cyclohexanediol compound is selected from the group consisting of the cis or trans forms of 1,3-cyclohexanediol and 1,4-cyclohexanediol, and racemic mixtures thereof.
- 13. A cryopreservation composition according to claim 11, wherein the cyclohexanediol compound is present in the cryopreservation composition in an amount of from 0.05 to 2.0 M.
- 14. A cryopreservation composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one additional cryoprotectant compound is selected from the group consisting of acetamide, agarose, alginate, l-analine, albumin, ammonium acetate, butanediol, chondroitin sulfate, chloroform, choline, dextrans, diethylene glycol, dimethyl acetamide, dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), erythritol, ethanol, ethylene glycol, formamide, glucose, glycerol, α-glycerophosphate, glycerol monoacetate, glycine, hydroxyethyl starch, inositol, lactose, magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate, maltose, mannitol, mannose, methanol, methyl acetamide, methylformamide, methyl ureas, phenol, pluronic polyols, polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, proline, propylene glycol, pyridine N-oxide, ribose, serine, sodium bromide, sodium chloride, sodium iodide, sodium nitrate, sodium sulfate, sorbitol, sucrose, trehalose, triethylene glycol, trimethylamine acetate, urea, valine and xylose.
- 15. A cryopreservation composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one additional cryoprotectant compound is present in the cryopreservation composition in an amount of from 0.1 to 10.0 M.

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- 16. A cryopreservation composition according to claim 11, wherein the cryopreservation composition further contains at least one anti-freeze protein.
- 17. A cryopreservation composition according to claim 16, wherein the anti-freeze protein is present in the cryopreservation composition in an amount of from 0.01 to 1 mg/mL of the cryopreservation composition.
- 18. A cryopreservation composition according to claim 11, wherein the cryopreservation composition further contains at least one anti-freeze glycoprotein.
- 19. A cryopreservation composition according to claim 18, wherein the anti-freeze glycoprotein is present in the cryopreservation composition in an amount of from 0.01 to 1 mg/mL of the cryopreservation composition.